

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

August 17, 2018

Cedar Street Summit - Part 3



Photos: Tuff Shed (left), Jon Wizard (right)

ARE TINY HOMES REALLY COMING TO TOWN?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

RESPONDING to last week's column, Summiteer Rick Hadlock writes, "Interesting article. CeliaSue has quite a life in her van."

If you're unfamiliar with CeliaSue Hecht, she's our local senior homeless Summiteer whose monthly social security is less than \$700.

CeliaSue is one of 500 homeless women on the peninsula; she lives with Cici, her 12-year old canine companion, in a van.

To supplement her income, CeliaSue does freelance writing and manuscript editing, makes customized dog sweaters for private customers, and works as a pet sitter. Her Silver Linings blog supports establishment of a community of tiny homes for senior women, ranging from travel trailers to Tuff Sheds costing no more than \$5,000 each.

Contact her by email at cshechtwriter@gmail.com, call 702-225-8206 or visit her website at <https://silverliningsandgraymatters.wordpress.com>.

Rick Hadlock, an absentee Pacific Grove homeowner, refers to CeliaSue's remark ". . .non-profits aren't doing enough to help the women they serve" by asking "Is it because there is no profit?"

Which leads to the crux of this series: exposition of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948, as it may apply to homeless housing needs now.

Declaration Of Human Rights

Article 25 (Part 1):

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.”

Re-Raising The NIMBY Wall?

Rick comments, “If someone has a conveniently located vacant lot, they do not want Tuff Sheds occupied by homeless people on it. If the lot is inconveniently located, then homeless people do not want to live there.”

This post entitled “Tiny Homes Development in Seaside” last week on Next Door, from JH of Mescal Corridor, proves Rick’s point:

“Seaside City wants to put one or more Tiny Homes development(s) into Seaside, potentially using shipping containers as the construction material. . .

“On Seaside City’s Facebook page, there is a picture of a tour of theoretical sites. . . I recognized the area to be the cross-street of Kimball and Tweed. That is a beautiful neighborhood with attractive, well-maintained homes. . .

“How does giving tiny homes to homeless people help improve the city?

“I am concerned that not only will it be a step back in neighborhood improvements to Seaside, it will bring more crime and drugs into our community. Does anyone know more about this project? How can we stop it?”

JH’s link to Monterey County Weekly’s August 2, 2018 story by David Schmalz is:

http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/local_news/faced-with-a-housing-shortage-seaside-looks-to-an-innovative/article_9d00826a-95eb-11e8-a85a-47a975c62811.html

Seaside City Council Candidate Speaks

Summiteer Jon Wizard, candidate for Seaside City Council, emailed news about the Homeless Committee started by Seaside Councilmember Kayla Jones (current mayoral candidate):

“My partner, Jessica, is on Seaside’s Homeless Committee and has been working with Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP), Veterans Transition Center (VTC) and the Gathering for Women (GFW) to allocate \$60,000.

“It’s a pittance, really, but it’s more than nothing, and there’s been fruitful discussion about how to use those dollars to make a meaningful impact.

“I think you’ll like what they’re working on.”

I hope so, too!

Contact: www.electwizard.com, 831-204-7777.

Monterey City Councilmember Speaks

Monterey's Vice Mayor, councilmember Timothy Barrett who is seeking reelection, announced formation of the private non-profit Neighborhood Housing Fund for Monterey (NHFM) last week.

Using a Neighborhood Approach, the fund will focus on needs that include meeting municipal inclusionary housing goals, working with occupants of distressed homes to maintain the homes as deed-restricted affordable housing, and spurring collaboration among healthcare providers, employers and housing developers.

In essence, the NFHM will help keep Monterey affordable, so those who work here can live here, those who retire here can afford to remain here, and young people growing up will stay here.

No mention was made about possible erection of tiny-home villages in Monterey, but Timothy Barrett's speech contained so many facts germane to today's housing crisis that it will be featured next week.

Meanwhile, contact Timothy Barrett at barrett@monterey.org, 831-277-9505.

Hadlock's Homeless Ho-Ho-Ho

Whereas Summiteer Hecht calls homelessness of local women "abominable," Summiteer Hadlock contends:

"Homeless people want the convenience of living in mid-town but don't (or can't) want to pay for it. If I were homeless, I'd want to live in the middle of San Francisco, use the street for my bathroom, and have access to city life where handouts are more likely. Why not? You can't get handouts from cows in rural areas (but the bathroom is roomy)."

Hecht's spicy retort? Unprintable!

###

Contact Wanda Sue Parrott, amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com, 831-899-5887

Copyright 2018 by Wanda Sue Parrott